



*“Every tree is a living liberty-pole on which  
a thousand bright flags are waving.”*

**Henry David Thoreau**

*T*he state tree of Massachusetts is the American Elm, a stately, magnificent tree whose leaves turn a bright yellow in the fall. The American Elm was an early symbol of our national independence. It was an American Elm that was Boston’s Liberty tree. The famous “Liberty Tree,” was a gathering site for patriotic citizens. British soldiers destroyed it as a final act of hostility during their hurried retreat from Boston in 1775.

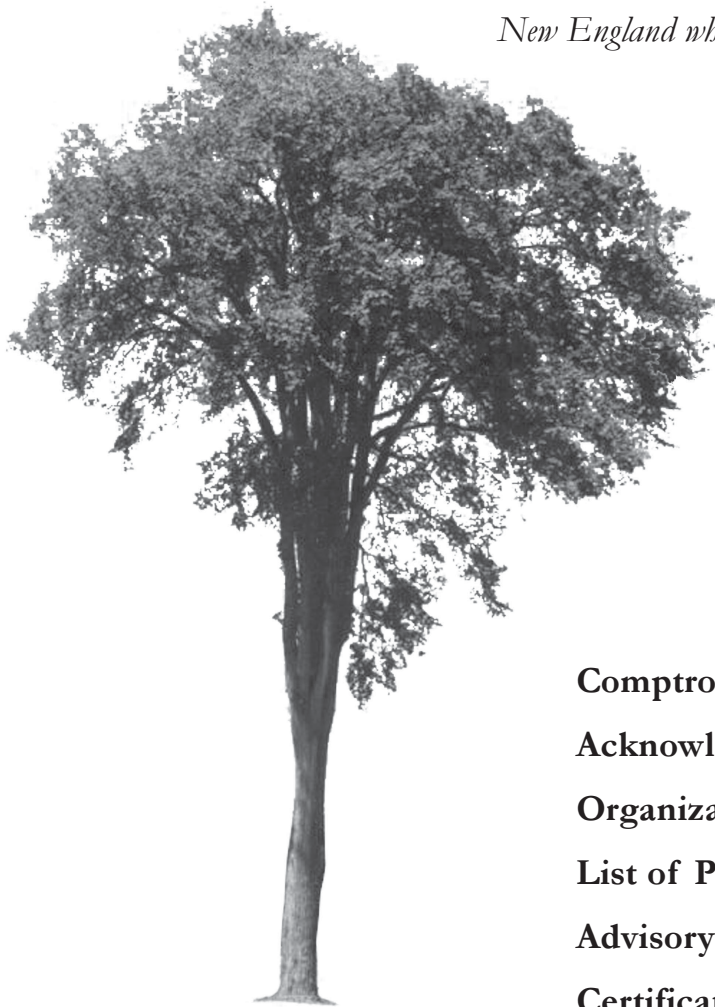
American Elms were the most popular shade tree for generations. Their graceful and majestic presence literally defined the streets of America. However over a period of 30 years, they slowly vanished from the landscape as Dutch Elm disease ravaged these trees almost to a point of extinction. Professional botanists, foresters and researchers have waged a battle against the disease. New disease-resistant varieties of purely American Elm have been developed. One of these is the American Liberty Elm.

One particularly comprehensive site dealing with the restoration of our state tree is [www.elmpost.org](http://www.elmpost.org), which discusses the history of the species and current efforts to restore it, and provides links to sources of trees and information.

*American Elm photo, courtesy of the Carley family  
All other photography unless otherwise noted, courtesy of  
Kindra Clineff , Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism*

# Introductory Section

*This fall, 11 trees were planted on Boston Common as a living memorial to honor and remember the people of New England who lost their lives on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.*



**Comptroller's Letter of Transmittal**

**Acknowledgments**

**Organization Chart of State Government**

**List of Principal State Officials**

**Advisory Board to the Comptroller**

**Certificate of Achievement**